

William Roe House (Miss Mackies School for Girls)
160 Grand Street
Newburgh
Orange County
New York

HABS No. NY-6230

HABS

NY,

36 - NEWY

13 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WILLIAM ROE HOUSE (MISS MACKIES SCHOOL FOR GIRLS) HABS No. NY-6230

Location: 160 Grand Street, Newburgh, Orange County, New York.

Present Owner: Henry Thompson Properties, Grand Street, Newburgh, New York

Present Occupants: Tenants.

Present Use: Apartment House.

Significance: Late Federal Style house, built by William Roe in the mid-1830's, when Newburgh was an affluent commercial center on the Hudson River.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1835-1839.
2. Architect: Architect unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: William Roe bought the property from Phineas Bowman, who moved the original structure to the southwest corner of Third and Montgomery Streets. At one time the Misses Mackies owned the house and used it as a School for Girls. Augusta Leslie established her "Inn" at this site.
4. Builder, suppliers: The William Hilton Company.
5. Original plans and construction: No available information.
6. Alterations and additions: The pipes in the house were replaced by copper pipes in 1955, and the furnace replaced by a hot water furnace (A. C. Smith & Co., Broadway St.). Some renovation of the house was begun in 1965, and the current owner Henry Thompson is restoring the house as of this date and has demolished the later brick addition on the south seen in photographs for this site.

B. Historical Context:

William Roe became the president of the Newburgh Whaling Company in 1833. He was born in Kingston on May 11, 1781, married Maria Hazard, and died in Newburgh in 1868. As a young man he worked for John Jacob Astor's sailing fleet, making trips to Europe and the Far East. He made a fortune as an importer and wholesale grocer, and retired to Newburgh in 1826. His daughter Mary E. Roe married William

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C. Hasbrouck, (for Wm. Hasbrouck House see HABS No. NY-6255), a wealthy Newburgh attorney.

Some time in the late nineteenth century, the house was used as Miss Mackies School for Girls, a prep school for women who were interested in attending Vassar.

Under Augusta Leslie's management the house functioned as an Inn in the late nineteenth century.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Situated on a hill above the Hudson River, this late Federal Style structure was once an impressive tribute to the economic status of the merchant barons of Newburgh. The design is enriched by a tall Doric portico whose pediment holds a wide sunburst window, and a lovely Palladian window in the pediment of the attic storys on the gable ends.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair, at the time of the field reports in 1969.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimension: The two-story plus attic house has a full basement. The overall dimensions are 40' x 48'-6" on a rectangular plan.
2. Foundations: The foundations are stone with brick around the windows.
3. Wall construction: Clapboards over brick.
4. Structural system, framing: Load bearing walls.
5. Porches: The Doric portico on the main elevation rises two stories, with a dentiled entablature and pediment. There is a sunburst window in the center of the pediment.

A wooden balcony within the portico leads out from the center second floor window.

The one-story porch on the rear elevation has six Doric columns supporting a pent roof. Within the porch a modern screen porch encloses the entrance doors.

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6. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys on either end of the house.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The front doorway has a frontispiece of four Doric pilasters on bases supporting a molded entablature. The door is surmounted by a traceried transom window and flanked by traceried fanlights.

The doorway on the rear elevation is obscured by a screen porch, but appears to have a muntined transom and fanlights.

There is a plain wooden door on the south addition.
(Addition demolished.)

- b. Windows: Typical windows have an architrave surround which supports a small entablature, and have six-over-six lights.

The pediment of the main elevation frames a muntined sunburst window with seven paves.

The pediments on the gable ends house Palladian windows.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof is gabled, now covered in asbestos shingles.
- b. Cornice: A denticulated wooden cornice.
- c. Dormers, towers: There are three pedimented dormer windows on the rear elevation.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The floor plans have been greatly altered over the years.
2. Stairways: The main staircase curves up along the south wall of the entrance hall, rising to a second floor landing and then to the attic floor. It has a turned newel and balusters of mahogany, and elaborately carved c-scrolls on the step ends.

There is a straight stair to the cellar from a door off of a small hall to the south of the entrance hall.

3. Flooring: The original flooring is of oak with mahogany inserts at the borders. The floor of the attic is of hard pine.

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4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster over brick with cornices in all the rooms. There is dado molding and paneling in the hall and in some of the rooms.
5. Decorative features: There are ten fireplaces with simple marble surrounds. The coal burning fireplaces in the main rooms of the first floor have molded wooden mantels and architrave trim and a black marble surround and hearth.

D. Site:

1. General Setting: The house is situated on a hill over the Hudson River, facing east on Grand Street.
2. Landscaping, enclosures: There is a nine foot stone wall with an iron door on Montgomery Street. A brick walk at the front of the house leads to the main entrance; the brick walk in the back has been partially destroyed by automobile parking.

Prepared by:
Eleni Silverman
Architectural Historian, HABS
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From field reports by:
Helen Ver Nooy Gearn
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PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Old Views: Parmenter Map of Newburgh, 1835 & 1839, Collection of Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands, Crawford House.

- B. Primary and unpublished sources:

Miss Mildred Deyo, Audiotape interview, collection of Helen Ver Nooy Gearn.

Mrs. J. Townsend Cassedy, daughter of Governor B. B. Odell, 7 Central Avenue, Newburgh, N.Y. - oral history.

- C. Secondary and published sources:

Nutt, John J. "Newburgh", Newburgh Journal, 1891.

Ruttenburger, E. M. History of the Town of Newburgh. 1859.

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